GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:33
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Spilover of polio cases from UP has officials worried` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the union Government have asked for report from the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other strategy to be followed by the Government to check polio cases in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 FOR 20.11.2002

The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Spillover of polio cases from UP has officials worried` in the Hindustan Times dated October 8, 2002. This news item refers to the outbreak of polio in U.P. and the increase in the number of polio cases in Delhi as a spillover from U.P.

It is a fact that there has been an outbreak situation in U.P. due to which cases have been detected in Delhi and certain districts of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. It has also been found that some cases in these States originated from U.P.

The Government has taken due note of the polio situation in U.P. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has been addressed urging the State Government to take all possible measures to stem the polio cases in the State. Minister of Health & Family Welfare has also met her at Lucknow recently along with senior officers and held detailed discussions with her and the State`s senior officers on the polio situation. She promised to leave no stone unturned to ensure best possible implementation of the polio eradication programme in the State. The State Government has taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of the programme and to ensure greater participation of the people.

The first Sub national immunization day was conducted on 29th September 2002 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi and in some districts of Haryana.

The national goal is to eradicate polio from the country and obtain international polio-free certification by 2005. The annual strategies for achieving this goal are formulated and implemented by the Government on the basis of advice of a group of national and international experts. Government is taking all possible measures to achieve this goal. Two National Immunization Day (NID) rounds are observed every year throughout the country for giving polio drops to the children below 5 years of age. In addition, Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) rounds are also observed in States where cases are reported to be increasing. House-to-house vaccination of missed children is also done for two days after the booth days of NID and SNID roundsMop-up vaccination rounds are also conducted in the districts and adjoining areas where new cases are detected. Intensive and extensive IEC (information, education and communication) activities in the form of banners, posters, hoardings, newspaper advertisements, TV programmes, etc. are conducted both by the Central and State Governments to popularize the anti-polio vaccination in the country.

Following special measures have been taken with special reference to the States where large number of polio cases have been detected:-

(i) In order to improve the detection and vaccination of missed children, the house-to-house vaccination teams have been strengthened with the addition of third member preferably a women from local community.

(ii) The community mobilisers have been engaged for improving the implementation of the programme in resistant areas.

(iii) House-to-house vaccination of missed children is being done for five days after the booth day as against two days in other parts of the country.

(iv) Additional IEC activities are being conducted.

(v) The implementation of the programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in the Government of India as also in the States.

(vi) Local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and ensuring greater participation of the people in the programme.

(vii) One Surveillance Medical Officer has been posted in each district in order to help the States in ensuring better monitoring and supervision.